

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An integrated import/export system comprising:
 - 2 a database of records relating to a plurality of shipments of goods, where said
 - 3 goods are shipped between at least two jurisdictions, each record having
 - 4 information relating to at least a first jurisdiction and a second jurisdiction;
 - 5 a database server in communication with said database; and
 - 6 an application server in communication with said database server for
 - 7 providing a user interface to at least one client, each said client associated
 - 8 with a member of a supply chain for a particular one of said plurality of
 - 9 shipments of said goods, said interface allowing each said member to modify
 - 10 at least a portion of a record relating to said particular one of said plurality of
 - 11 shipments of said goods.
- 1 2. The integrated import/export system of claim 1 wherein said application server
- 2 only allows a particular one of said members to modify said at least a portion of said
- 3 record if said particular one of said members has proper security authorization.
- 1 3. The integrated import/export system of claim 1 further comprising an electronic
- 2 data interchange server in communication with said database server.
- 1 4. The integrated import/export system of claim 3 wherein said electronic data
- 2 interchange server allows said system to exchange information with databases and
- 3 data repositories of said members of said supply chain.
- 1 5. The integrated import/export system of claim 3 wherein said electronic data
- 2 interchange server allows access to databases maintained by governments of said
- 3 jurisdictions.
- 1 6. The integrated import/export system of claim 1 further comprising a file transfer
- 2 protocol server for enabling receipt and transmission of said records using the file
- 3 transfer protocol.

1 7. The integrated import/export system of claim 1 further comprising a hyper-text
2 transfer protocol (HTTP) server for enabling receipt of a request for a page and
3 transmission of said page to an origin of said request.

1 8. A method of operating an integrated import/export system comprising:

2 maintaining a database of records relating to a plurality of shipments of goods
3 between at least two jurisdictions;

4 providing an interface for accessing particular ones of said records in said
5 database to a member of a supply chain for said particular ones of said
6 plurality of shipments of said goods;

7 receiving, from said member, an instruction to modify one of said particular
8 ones of said records relating to said particular one of said plurality of
9 shipments; and

10 modifying said one of said records according to said instruction.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

2 receiving a query for information stored in databases maintained by
3 governments of said at least two jurisdictions;

4 responsive to receiving said query, accessing said databases maintained by
5 said governments of said at least two jurisdictions to retrieve a result; and

6 presenting said result of said accessing to a source of said query.

1 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising submitting documentation for entry into
2 said databases maintained by said governments of said at least two jurisdictions.

1 11. The method of claim 9 further comprising querying said databases maintained by
2 said governments of said at least two jurisdictions to determine a clearance status of
3 a given shipment of said plurality of shipments of said goods.

1 12. The method of claim 8 further comprising determining whether said instruction to
2 modify relates to a portion of said one of said records for which said member has

3 modification authority and undertaking said modifying only if said member has
4 modification authority.

1 13. A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions
2 which, when performed by a processor in an import/export system, cause the
3 processor to:

4 maintain a database of records relating to a plurality of shipments of goods
5 between at least two jurisdictions;

6 provide an interface for accessing particular ones of said records in said
7 database to a member of a supply chain for said particular ones of said
8 plurality of shipments of said goods;

9 receive, from said member, an instruction to modify a particular one of said
10 records relating to said particular one of said plurality of shipments; and

11 modify said one of said records according to said instruction.

1 14. A record editing system in communication with an integrated import/export
2 system, said record editing system operable to:

3 display an interface to a member of a supply chain for a particular shipment of
4 goods, said interface allowing interaction with a database of records relating
5 to said shipment of goods maintained at said integrated import/export system,
6 where said goods are shipped between at least two jurisdictions; and

7 receive, from said member, instructions to modify a record relating to said
8 shipment of goods.

1 15. A record editing system in communication with an integrated import/export
2 system, said record editing system comprising:

3 an output means for displaying an interface to a member of a supply chain for
4 a particular shipment of goods, said interface allowing interaction with a
5 database of records relating to said shipment of goods maintained at said

6 integrated import/export system, where said goods are shipped between at
7 least two jurisdictions; and

8 an input means for receiving, from said member, instructions to modify a
9 record relating to said shipment of goods.

1 16.A method of modifying a transaction comprising:

2 receiving a communication initiation from a party to said transaction;

3 sending a description of an interface for allowing said party to provide an
4 transaction identifier of said transaction and additional data for said
5 transaction;

6 receiving said transaction identifier of said transaction and said additional
7 data for said transaction; and

8 modifying an entry in a database identified by said transaction identifier to
9 include said additional data.

1 17.The method of claim 16 where said transaction occurs over a border between a
2 first jurisdiction and a second jurisdiction and said method further comprises:

3 querying a database maintained by a government of one of said jurisdictions;

4 receiving a result of said querying; and

5 based on said result, further modifying said entry, in said database, identified
6 by said transaction identifier.

1 18.The method of claim 16 further comprising determining whether said party to said
2 transaction has modification authority and undertaking said modifying said entry in
3 said database only if said party to said transaction has modification authority.

1 19.A method of allowing shipment analysis comprising:

2 receiving an indication of a proposed shipment from a first jurisdiction to a
3 second jurisdiction; and

4 based on said indication, providing a first metric for said proposed shipment,
5 said first metric derived from data in a database relating to previous
6 shipments from said first jurisdiction to said second jurisdiction.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:

2 receiving a suggestion of an intermediate jurisdiction; and

3 based on said suggestion, providing a second metric for said proposed
4 shipment, said second metric derived from data in a database relating to
5 previous shipments from said first jurisdiction to said intermediate jurisdiction
6 and previous shipments from said intermediate jurisdiction to said second
7 jurisdiction.

1 21. The method of claim 19 further comprising:

2 determining a plurality of alternative metrics for said proposed shipment, each
3 of said plurality of alternative metrics derived from data in a database relating
4 to previous shipments from said first jurisdiction to a unique intermediate
5 jurisdiction and previous shipments from said unique intermediate jurisdiction
6 to said second jurisdiction;

7 determining an optimal one of said plurality of alternative metrics; and

8 providing said optimal one of said plurality of alternative metrics and an
9 indication of an intermediate jurisdiction corresponding to said optimal one of
10 said plurality of alternative metrics.

1 22. A database comprising a plurality of shipment tables, each said shipment table
2 having a unique field identifying record number, a plurality of keys for linking said
3 shipment tables to uniquely identify shipments and documents associated with said
4 shipments, said plurality of shipment tables including:

5 a table for shipment identities;

6 a table for shipment consolidation information;

7 a table for shipment information;

- THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**